

Waiting times for planned (elective) care

Our waiting times statistics include information on waiting times for planned (elective) care. They exclude information about emergency (unscheduled) care. The information provides an overview of patients who are currently on an NHS Orkney waiting list as at 28 February 2026. The statistics included relate to the wait you may experience to:

- Attend a particular outpatient clinic for the first time (known as a new outpatient attendance)
- Receive treatment under the national Treatment Time Guarantee (TTG) standard as an inpatient or day case

The waiting times figures are displayed in weeks and show patients who have either completed their wait and have been seen at a new outpatient appointment or have been admitted for treatment between 1 February 2026 and 28 February 2026.

For patients currently on an NHS Orkney waiting list, some will have waited less than the median waiting time* whilst others will have waited longer. We use the 90th percentile to show that out of every 10 patients, 9 are currently waiting less than the number of weeks indicated.

The wait experienced by our patients may vary from the median for a number of reasons, and this includes:

- The clinical need of the patient
- The urgency of the care required
- The availability of services
- The number of patients waiting to be treated

To note – Decisions about waiting times will always be made by a clinician and influenced by a clinical decision or the urgency of the care required. Statistics are likely to fluctuate as NHS Orkney addresses the backlog of patients waiting for planned care, consistent with Health Boards across NHS Scotland.

To ensure patient confidentiality, waiting times statistics are not included if there were less than 5 patients waiting or seen for treatment in the period (indicated as '<5' on each table).

Patients who need to go off island for care and treatment

NHS Orkney waiting times figures are only for patients waiting for an appointment or treatment here in Orkney. If patients need to go off island for treatment/appointment, please click on the Health Board where you have been referred to view their waiting times statistics.

The next set of statistics will be published the third week of every month and will provide an update on waiting times for the previous month.

For more information please visit [NHS Inform](#).

* The median wait time is used to calculate the typical length of time patients are currently waiting or have waited to be seen.

Inpatient Waiting Times by specialty

Currently waiting - as at 28 February 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	37	17	27
General Surgery	58	3	17
Gynaecology	17	5	14
Ophthalmology	200	32	36
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	<5	11	20
Oral Surgery	15	4	24
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	27	4	19
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	92	8	23

The table above shows the median number of weeks that patients on an NHS Orkney Inpatient Waiting List have been waiting for an appointment or treatment as at 28 February 2026. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 February 2026 - 28 February 2026

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Community Dental Practice	0	0	0
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Surgery	34	4	15
Gynaecology	11	4	5
Ophthalmology	12	35	65
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	8	15	21
Orthodontics	0	0	0
Paediatric	0	0	0
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	16	13	16
Plastic Surgery	0	0	0
Rheumatology	0	0	0
Trauma and Orthopaedic	<1	14	14

The table above shows the average number of weeks that patients on an NHS Orkney Inpatient Waiting List had waited before being seen for an appointment or treatment between 1 - 28 February 2026. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who typically waited less than the figures shown.

Outpatient Waiting Times by specialty

Currently waiting - as at 28 February 2026

Specialty	Total Waiting	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	20	2	6
Cardiology	26	4	8
Dermatology	65	13	19
Diabetes	10	2	4
Dietetics	76	26	58
Ear, Nose & Throat	155	6	18
General Medicine	31	3	6
General Psychiatry	149	54	121
General Surgery	40	1	2
Gynaecology	37	2	5
Ophthalmology	68	4	17
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	28	13	24
Oral Surgery	106	10	21
Paediatric	19	5	17
Paediatric Surgery	<5	11	13
Pain Management	46	15	31
Physiotherapy	124	4	25
Restorative Dentistry	16	13	22
Rheumatology	14	7	16
Speech and Language Therapy	239	90	189
Trauma and Orthopaedic	423	21	38

The table above shows the median number of weeks that patients on an NHS Orkney Outpatient Waiting List have been waiting for an appointment or treatment as at 28 February 2026. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who are typically waiting less than the figures shown.

Seen - between 1 February 2026 - 28 February 2026

Specialty	Total seen	Median Wait	9 out of 10 waits
Adolescent Psychiatry	0	0	0
Audiological Science	30	3	4
Cardiology	21	3	10
Dermatology	56	10	25
Diabetes	16	2	6
Dietetics	47	9	19
Ear, Nose & Throat	0	0	0
General Medicine	24	4	13
General Psychiatry	15	16	38
General Surgery	95	2	3
Gynaecology	36	4	8
Ophthalmology	19	3	11
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	63	12	20
Oral Surgery	14	19	53
Paediatric	11	9	16
Paediatric Surgery	0	0	0
Pain Management	15	30	32
Physiotherapy	41	5	35
Restorative Dentistry	0	0	0
Rheumatology	9	11	14
Speech and Language Therapy	8	3	34
Trauma and Orthopaedic	69	44	47

The table above shows the average number of weeks that patients on an NHS Orkney Outpatient Waiting List had waited before being seen for an appointment or treatment between 1 - 28 February 2026. Within these figures there may be a small amount of patients who typically waited less than the figures shown.